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EXCISE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 248461
FOR ASST SECY HOLBROOKE
FOLLOWING REPEAT TOKYO 16518 ACTION STATE INFO
BEIJING SEOUL 17 SEP 82.
QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 16518
E.O. 12065: GDS 09/17/88 (IMMERMAN, ROBERT) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM, PEPR, KS, JA
SUBJECT: (U) GOJ REACTION TO KIM DAE JUNG SENTENCE
1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.
2.

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VICE FOREIGN MINISTER TAKASHIMA HAS CALLED IN ROK AMBASSADOR CHOI (WHO HAS NOT YET PRESENTED CREDENTIALS) AT 4:32 P.M. TO CONVEY GOJ REACTION TO KIM DAE JUNG'S DEATH SENTENCE. TAKASHIMA SUBSEQUENTLY BRIEFED JAPANESE PRESS ON MEETING.
3. TAKASHIMA TOLD CHOI THAT THE SENTENCE PRONOUNCED TODAY DEMONSTRATES THE EXTREMELY SEVERE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH KIM DAE JUNG FINDS HIMSELF. THE GOJ IS DEEP-
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CERNED ABOUT THIS DEVELOPMENT. BECAUSE OF ITS CONCERN WITH MR. KIM'S PERSONAL TREATMENT, THE GOJ FINDS THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT TO BE SERIOUS AND WILL WATCH RELATED MOVES CLOSELY FROM NOW ON.

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4. TAKASHIMA ALSO TOLD CHOI THAT THE GOJ EARNESTLY DESIRED THE MAINTENANCE OF SMOOTHLY WORKING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT WILL FIND ITSELF CONSTRAINED BY A SEVERE PUBLIC REACTION TO THE LATEST TRIAL DEVELOPMENTS. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER KIM'S TREATMENT.
5. [redacted]

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[redacted] HE THUS HOPED THAT THIS MATTER COULD BE APPROACHED CALMLY, THEREBY HELPING THOSE PEOPLE IN KOREA WHO ARE TRYING TO WORK FOR GOOD ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS.
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY H. Tuple DATE 8/18/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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5. CHOI ALSO TOLD TAKASHIMA THAT ROK AUTHORITIES HAD DROPPED CHARGE REGARDING KIM DAE JUNG'S ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN IN VIEW OF THE POLITICAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE ROK. KIM'S DEATH SENTENCE WAS THUS FOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTED IN THE ROK, AND NOT FOR ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN.

7. [redacted]

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8. [redacted]

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9. [redacted]

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10. [redacted]

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